



The American Revolution

Early Stages

In a “Gentlemen’s War” the goal is to capture the capital

PROBLEM?

British attempt to capture all major colonial cities:

Boston, MA

New York, NY

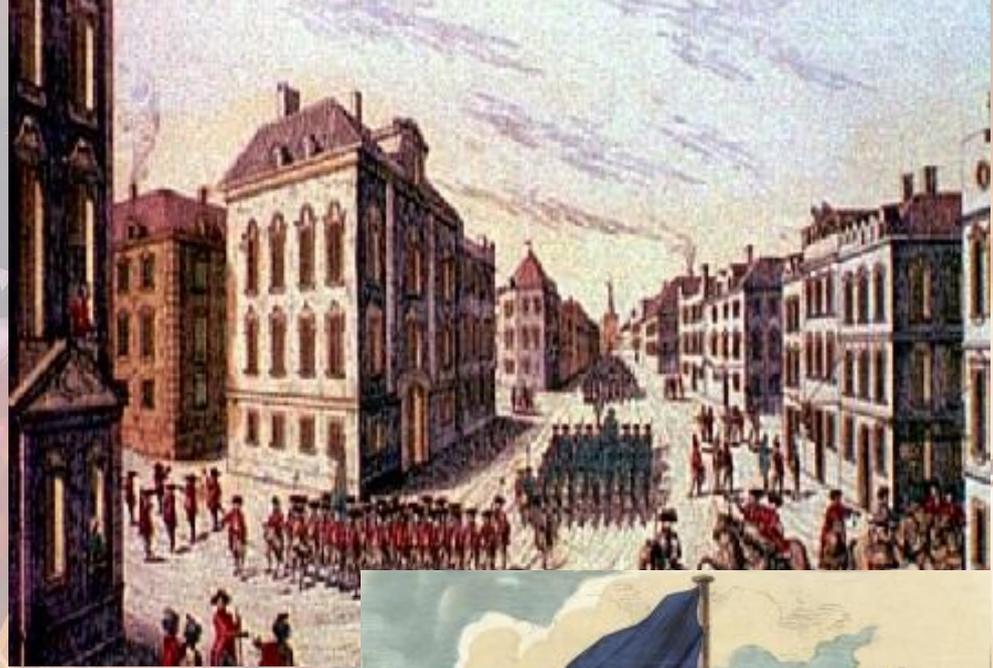
Philadelphia, PA

Savannah, GA

Charleston, SC

The formation of the Continental Army in ‘75 only issued 1 year enlistments

Washington’s army in retreat by 1776; deserters, enlistments ending deplete troop strength



Strategies

Continental:

- “War of attrition” - wearing enemy down through continuous losses of personnel and materiel
- Guerrilla tactics: don't have to win, just don't lose
- Stretch British away from supply lines
- Gain foreign allies

British:

- Break colonies up between North and South
- Blockade major ports
- Use loyalist support





LOYALIST STRONGHOLDS



Patriot Victories

A few victories helped bring morale up

Dec. 1776: **Trenton, NJ**
against Hessian mercenaries
from Germany

(mercenaries: soldiers from an
uninvolved place that are paid
to fight)

Christmas night, Washington
and his troops cross the
Delaware and attack

Continental victory →
Washington was then able to
move his forces to Princeton

Jan. 1777: **Princeton, NJ**
drove out 2 regiments of
British troops



Saratoga

19 September: British General Burgoyne achieved a small but costly victory over Continentals led by Gates and Arnold

Burgoyne made the mistake of launching a 2nd attack on 7 October → defeated and forced to retreat

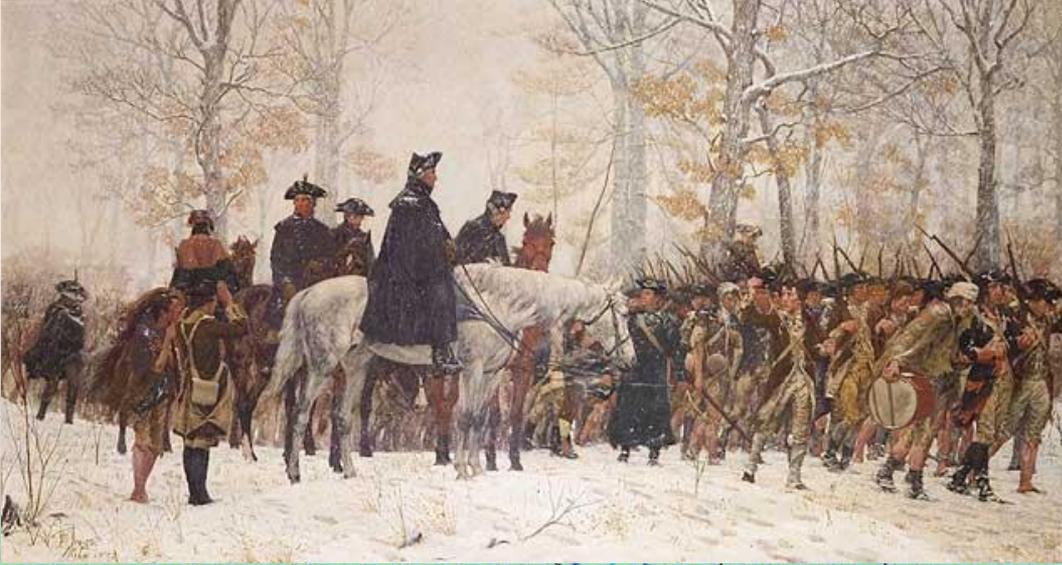
Turning point of the war

Victory convinced the French govt (and Louis XVI) to formally recognize the patriot cause and enter the war as their ally



Saratoga

Valley Forge



PA campsite of Washington's army during winter of 1777-78

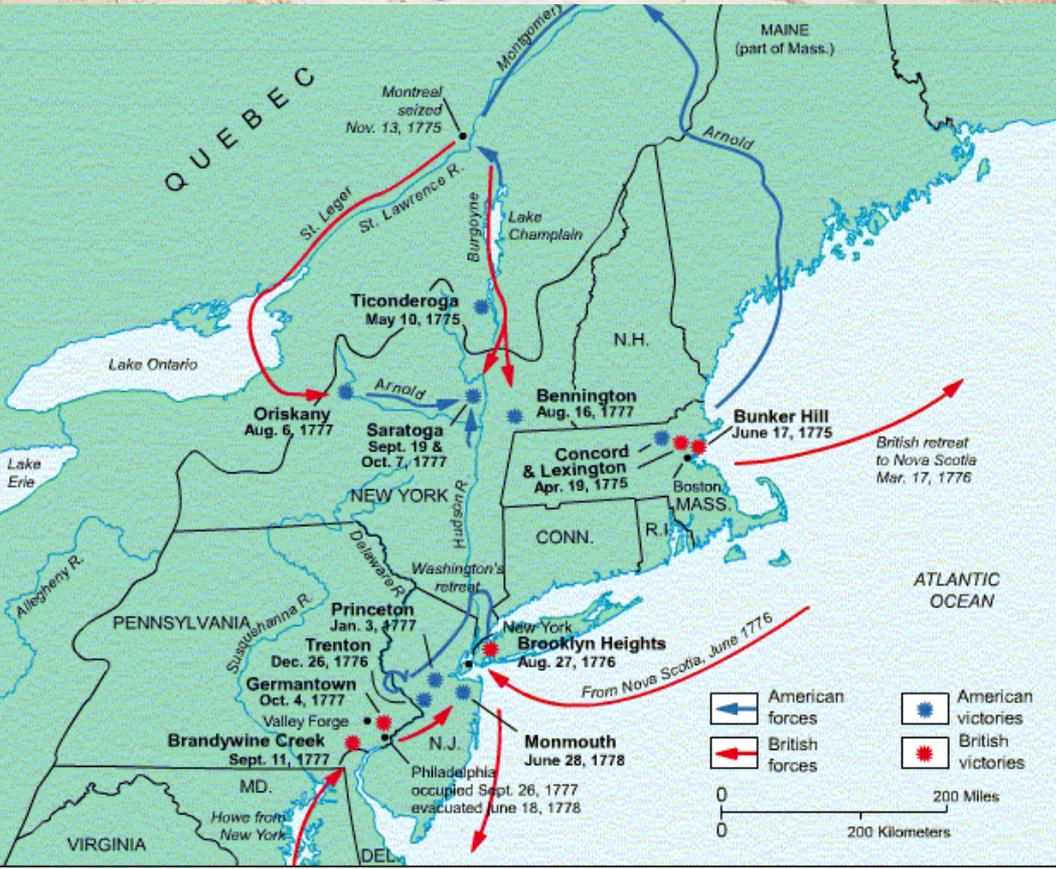
British forces occupied nearby cities

2,500 men (out of 10,000) died of exposure, disease (dysentery, smallpox, fever) & starvation; 1 in 10 deserted

*many were barefoot

Congress struggled to gain supplies for the army despite Washington's appeal to them →

Showed the repercussions of having no central/federal/national govt



Foreign Help



- ★ -U.S. desperately needed firearms
- ★ ← Marquis de Lafayette brought a volunteer army of 6,000 from France after Saratoga

Landed near Charleston, SC in 1777

→ traveled to Philadelphia, expecting to be made Washington's 2nd in command

Lafayette's youth (19) made Cont. Congress reluctant to promote him over more experienced colonial officers

*Lafayette's willingness to volunteer his services without pay won their respect and Lafayette was commissioned as a Major-General

Went back to France during the war, advocated for American independence and returned later for the Battle of Yorktown

Civilian Life

1. High inflation; Continental Congress began printing paper money
 2. Shortage of goods
 3. All able-bodied men put to use (slaves were used on both sides in the war; usually on the Continentals in the North and as “Black Loyalists” in the South)
 4. Profiteers made money selling to G.B. despite the war; negatively affecting morale
- “Camp Followers” Sybil Ludington and other “warners”

Some women helped the military effort: cook, mended, fought



Southern Campaign

British strategy changed to splitting the colonies; “breaking their back”

Savannah and Charleston were captured by General Cornwallis

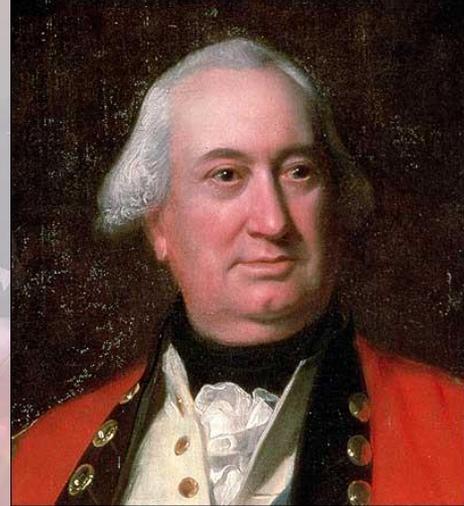
1778: France and England go to war, Spain and Holland enter against England

Kings Mountain, SC (Oct. 1780) resulted in a Patriot victory under Gen. Gates

Cowpens, SC (Jan. 1781) resulted in a Patriot victory which pushed the British to Guilford Courthouse

British 600

Americans 72



War in the South 1778-1780

War in the South 1781



War's End

SC & GA return to Patriot control

Guilford Courthouse, NC (Mar. 1781) - British **Pyrrhic victory** in NC over the Continentals, causing them to abandon control of the Carolinas

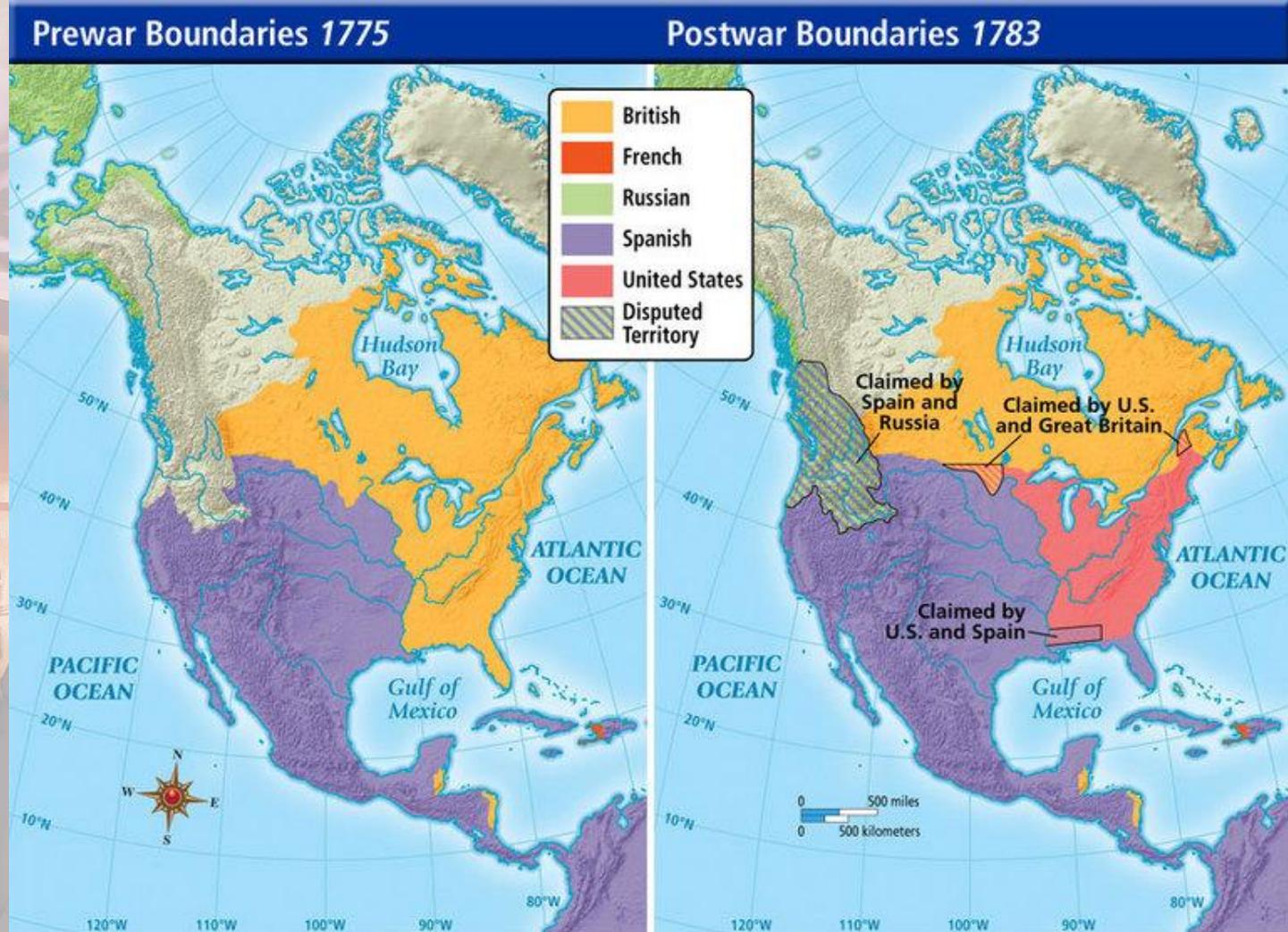
British move to Yorktown, VA where they are now outnumbered by Americans & the French under Gen. Lafayette → forces the British to retreat

Surrounded, Cornwallis surrenders **Oct. 1781**

George WashingDONE with your attitude



Treaty of Paris 1783



1. Recognized U.S. independence

2. Set boundaries to the Mississippi River



Some provisions of the treaty will lead to trouble later

*Spanish control of the lower half of the Mississippi

Symbol to the World



-Liberty is paramount

-Freedom and basic natural rights are worth dying for

-Equality

-Economic opportunity

-Belief in a greater cause

-Set a precedent for the future of America

